DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 477 157 CS 511 979

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TITLE	Writeaerobics: 40 Workshop Exercises To Improve Your Writing Teaching. Bill Harp Professional Teachers Library.
ISBN	ISBN-1-929024-61-4
PUB DATE	2003-00-00
NOTE	125p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Christopher-Gordon Publishers, Inc., 1502 Providence Hwy., Suite 12, Norwood, MA 02062 (Order no. 3028, $18.95). Tel: 800-934-8322 (Toll Free); Web site: http://www.christopher-gordon.com.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Classroom Techniques; Elementary Education; Instructional Effectiveness; Instructional Improvement; *Writing Exercises; *Writing Instruction; *Writing Strategies; *Writing Teachers; *Writing Workshops

ABSTRACT

To teach writing well, teachers need three things: first, they have to understand writing itself, as well as writing pedagogy; second, they need to be writers themselves; and third, they need to know how to communicate their knowledge about writing effectively to their students. This book is based on the premise that writing ability--and teaching effectiveness in writing--is not based on what a person knows, but what he/she does. The book contains 40 days of information (roughly two classroom months) about writing for teachers to think about, exercises to try in their own writing notebooks, and activities to try with their own young writers. It applies the aerobics principle to writing. Each of the 40 "Writeaerobics" workouts includes the following: quotes on writing to inspire teachers (some could make posters for a classroom wall); short lessons on the writing craft or teaching writing; "writeaerobic" exercises for the writer's notebook, so that teachers can personally understand and experience the topic of that day's lesson; and ideas to build craft lessons for the writer's workshop. Appendixes offer advice on why keep a writer's notebook; playing with leads; learning from advertising copywriters to write simply; and helping young authors identify with their older counterparts. (Contains 40 references.) (NKA)

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